

PACLITAXEL

Angiosarcoma – no NICE appraisal / approval

Drug/Dosage:	Paclitaxel	75mg/m ²	IV	once weekly
Administration:	Doses < 150mg in 250ml 0.9% sodium chloride over 1 hour Doses ≥ 150mg in 500ml 0.9% sodium chloride over 1 hour Administer with PVC-free giving set with a 0.2 micron in-line filter			
Frequency:	weekly until disease progression			
Main Toxicities:	hypersensitivity reactions (infusion-related); alopecia; myelosuppression (mild); neurotoxicity; diarrhoea; myalgia/arthralgia; ovarian failure/infertility			
Anti-emetics:	mildly emetogenic			
Extravasation:	paclitaxel is a vesicant			
Regular Investigations:	FBC	weekly		
	U&Es	baseline, then every 3 weeks		
	LFTs	baseline, then: weekly if raised at baseline; otherwise 3-weekly		
Comments:	Premedication:			
	Dexamethasone	8mg	IV	Give 30 minutes prior to administration
	Chlorphenamine	10mg	IV	
	Ranitidine	50mg	IV	

To minimise steroid side effects, the dose of dexamethasone may be reduced, and in some cases stopped¹, if there has been no evidence of hypersensitivity.

Dose Modifications

Haematological Toxicity:	WBC < 3.0 x 10 ⁹ /l or Neutrophils < 1.5 x 10 ⁹ /l or Platelets < 100 x 10 ⁹ /l	Delay for 1 week. Repeat FBC and, if within normal parameters, resume treatment.
Hepatic Impairment:	A dose reduction should probably be given initially if impaired hepatic function. Due to lack of data, dose recommendations not available. If in doubt, contact the relevant Consultant.	
Neuropathy:	If Grade 1-2 peripheral neuropathy develops, consider a dose reduction of 20%. If in doubt, seek advice from Consultant.	
Myalgia / Arthralgia:	Often co-exist, usually Grade 1 or Grade 2. Management consists of reassuring patients that it is self-limiting. Consider prescribing NSAIDs, but may be ineffective.	

References: Cancer 1999; 86 (10): 2034-2037
¹Summerhayes and Daniels, Practical Chemotherapy, 2003

Reason for Update: frequency of monitoring reviewed; admin section updated	Approved by Consultant: Dr A Neal
Version: 3	Approved by Lead Chemotherapy Nurse: V Mumford
Supersedes: Version 2	Date: 4.3.14
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